

**DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DURHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Wednesday, January 30, 2002

7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M. Joint Session

**MINUTES**

Place: Durham Public Schools Staff Development Center, 2107 Hillandale Road, Room M-8

Present: Board of County Commissioners: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Becky M. Heron

Board of Education: Vice-Chairman Gail Heath and Members Regina George-Bowden, Rev. Michael Page, Mozell Robinson, Phillis Scott, and Arnold Spell

City Council: Mayor William V. Bell, Tamra Edwards, Thomas Stith, Cora Cole-McFadden, Howard Clement III, and John Best Jr.

Absent: Board of Education Chairman Kathryn Meyers and City Council Member Lewis A. Cheek

Staff Present: Numerous staff members from the three governmental bodies were present to assist with various presentations.

Presider: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black

**Opening Session**

Durham Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ann Denlinger called the Joint Session to order.

Superintendent Denlinger stated that Chairman Meyers was ill and unable to be with us tonight. She extended her welcome on behalf of the Board of Education. Superintendent Denlinger advised that the school system was happy to host the group at the Staff Development Center. She thanked the group for utilizing a Durham Public Schools building.

Mayor Bell welcomed everyone to the Joint Session. He announced that Lewis A. Cheek, Mayor Pro Tempore, was also absent.

Chairman Black asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Chairman Black stated that this was the second meeting of the three governing bodies and that all are working together to ensure that our citizens are better served.

### **Joint Use Capital Improvement Program**

County Manager Michael Ruffin introduced the first item on the agenda regarding the Joint Use Capital Improvement Program. He stated that about a year ago then-Mayor Nick Tennyson told some of us that the next time we meet we should address the resolution that all three governmental bodies adopted in late 1996 setting forth an interest in working on the Capital Improvement planning collaboratively. The two Managers and the Superintendent have convened a Task Force that has begun work. A lot of work has been done.

The County Manager stated that several members of the Task Force would share the Task Force's accomplishments thus far and advise what will happen from this point forward.

Durham County Budget Director Pam Meyer said that she was one of five County representatives on the Joint Capital Improvement Team (CIP) that was told to move forward with the Joint CIP plan.

Ms. Meyer began the presentation with introductory comments about the presentation. The items discussed included the following:

- Purpose of the Joint CIP Project
- Project Team
- Charge to the Team
- Project tasks
- Tools to be used
- Examples of existing joint efforts
- Categories of joint siting and use criteria the Team will consider
- Questions and discussion

Ms. Meyer discussed the purpose of the Joint CIP Project, Project Team, and charge to the Team.

Hugh Osteen, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Durham Public Schools, discussed the project tasks that included the following:

- Define the types of capital facilities

- Create a matrix of the types of facilities
- Map the locations of existing facilities
- Collect existing CIP and review for potential joint use and siting
- Collect any underlying plans
- Map the locations or search areas for planned facilities
- Compile existing criteria that are used to site different types of facilities
- Understand the steps various departments used in planning.
- Develop specific criteria for joint siting or joint use
- Compile a list of past and current joint siting and joint use projects
- Develop a list of potential joint siting or use projects

Mr. Nick Curtis, Budget Director, City of Durham, continued the discussion about project tasks as follows:

- Establish process for deciding whether to pursue specific joint siting or joint use projects
- Establish a process to develop and operate joint facilities
- Create a joint feasibility committee
- Research what other communities do
- Establishment a clearinghouse
- Expand the effort
- Tools we will use.

Mr. Curtis cited the examples of existing joint efforts, and various staff members discussed each project as follows:

- Fayetteville Street Elementary/City parks playground—Hugh Osteen
- Riverside and Hillside High/City parks—Johnny Ford
- Eastway Elementary/Operation Breakthrough—Daniel Hudgins
- County/City/Volunteer Fire Departments—Jeff Batten and Otis Cooper

Mr. Curtis talked about joint siting and use criteria.

Mr. Curtis ended his comments by asking for discussion and questions. He thanked John Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council of Governments, for his work to facilitate the process.

Chairman Black made remarks about the presentation. She said that the memorandum adopted in 1996 by the three governmental bodies is leading us in the direction that many of us would like to go. That is making sure that we are jointly working together to provide facilities that are good for the citizens of this community and saving money as well.

Chairman Black said she would give everyone an opportunity to answer the three questions raised by staff. The three questions follow:

- Are we proceeding with the project in the best way?
- Do you have comments on the criteria listed and suggestions for other criteria?
- How would elected bodies like to be involved?

The three elected bodies asked questions and made comments about the three proposed questions raised by the staff.

A lengthy discussion and question period followed by the three elected bodies.

The staff of the three governmental bodies responded.

Councilman Howard Clement suggested that CEPTED principles be added as one of the criteria for siting facilities. He also suggested that Lakeview School be considered for a gymnasium. That should be a priority in capital improvement projects.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow suggested that the Adequate Public Facilities Committee work with staff on the joint CIP.

Chairman Black closed the question and discussion session on the capital improvement plan in order to move forward on the agenda.

### **School Impact Fees**

County Manager Michael M. Ruffin made a presentation to the three governmental bodies on School Impact Fees.

The County Manager made brief introductory remarks about impact fees. He then focused his remarks on the frequently asked questions about impact fees.

County Manager Ruffin then raised issues that the Commissioners needed to have discussed in order to give directions to the staff. The issues were:

- Amount of recommended impact fee
- Effective date
- Time of collection
- Future fee study
- Level of effort
- Impact fee districts
- Affordable housing solution
- Appeals

The Manager then reviewed a chart that showed the estimated revenue generated by impact fees.

The Board of Education, City Council, and Board of County Commissioners asked questions and made comments to which the County Manager and County Attorney Chuck Kitchen responded.

### **Legislative Issues**

Ms. Deborah Craig-Ray, Public Information and Governmental Affairs Director, stated she was asked to give a five-minute report on the 2001 Legislative Agenda. She distributed a copy of the final report that was given the County Commissioners. The report summarizes the key issues and concerns of the Commissioners.

Ms. Craig-Ray reviewed the six items that the legislature approved. They were as follows:

1. Legislation to prohibit the taking of deer with dogs in Durham County
2. Legislation to expand the Durham County ABC Board to five members
3. Phased-in Mental Health system reform at state and local level
4. Increase Durham County Occupancy Tax from 5% to 6%
5. Legislation to decriminalize the placement of an infant less than 15 days old with a law enforcement officer, a Department of Social Services worker, a health care provider at a hospital, or a Public Health Department
6. Legislation providing funding adequate to assure that all children in North Carolina who apply and are eligible for N C Health Choice will be served

Ms. Nancy Hester, Chief Information Officer, Durham Public Schools, reviewed for the County Commissioners and the Council members the bills in the legislature that were passed that affected Durham Public Schools.

Chairman Black thanked the staff for the hard work that was done to make the meeting successful.

Chairman Black said there would be another meeting. She asked the two managers and the school superintendent to decide when the next meeting would be held. She suggested the fifth Wednesday in the month. Mayor Bell would be the host for the next meeting. The meeting may be held at the Staff Development Center. She requested that persons with agenda items for the next meeting advise the City and County Managers. The agenda will be prepared based on the items received.

Chairman Black thanked everyone for coming.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC  
Clerk to the Board